

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-13 SAM-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 /091 W

----- 079478

R 231120Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5179

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4114

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, ING

SUDJECT: INDO-PAK RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 4065, NEW DELHI 5821

1. PAK PRESS APRIL 23 CARRIED MFA-INSPIRED REPORT
ON INDO-PAK RELATIONS WHICH UNDERScored FORTHCOMING
APPROACH GOP HAS ADOPTED TOWARD PROJECTED TALKS WITH
INDIANS HERE. REPORT, OBVIOUSLY BASED ON MINISTRY
BRIEFING, STRESSES THAT WHILE ISSUE OF RESTORATION OF
OVERFLIGHTS AND AIR LINKS WILL RECEIVE FIRST ATTENTION,
TALKS "ARE EXPECTED TO BE WIDE-RANGING FOR A FURTHER
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS" "AS AT LAST MEETING
IN NEW DELHI," PAKISTAN TIMES VERSION GOES ON TO SAY,
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"THE TWO SIDES CAN RAISE ANY OUTSTANDING ISSK. THESE

CAN RANGE OVER THE QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, RAIL LINKS, AS WELL AS THE KASHMIR ISSUE."

2. REPORT STATES THAT AGREEMENT ON OVERFLIGHTS AND AIR LINKS NOW SEEMS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY. IT SAYS THAT MODALITIES OF THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF THE 1971 CASE FROM ICAO WILL APPARENTLY BE SETTLED BY MUTUAL CONSULTATIONS. "SINCE INDIA HAS ALSO FILED A COUNTER-CLAIM, THE PROCEDURE FOR WITHDRAWING THE TWO CASES CAN BE DECIDED EITHER THROUGH A JOINT LETTER TO THE ICAO OR BY TWO SIMULTANEOUS LETTERS."

3. REPORT STATES THAT TALKS ARE EXPECTED HERE EARLY NEXT MONTH AND THAT PRECISE DATE IS UNDER NEGOTIATION. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM SWISS AMBASSADOR THAT LETTER TO INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA PROPOSING DATES WENT TO DELHI IN THE SWISS POUCH YESTERDAY.) IT ALSO SEEKS TO SET RIGHT WHAT IT CLAIMS IS DISTORTED IMPRESSION "CREATED BY SOME SECTION OF FOREIGN NEWS MEDIA" AS TO WHO SHOULD BE CREDITED WITH BREAKING YEAR-LONG SIMLA PROCESS DEADLMPK.

4. IN OBVIOUSLY RELATED DEVELOPMENT, PRESS IS NOW WEIGHING IN STRONGLY WELCOMING INDIA'S REPOSE TO BHUTTO'S INITIATIVE ON THE STALLED CIVAIR ISSUE AND

EXPRESSING HOPE THAT ATTITUDE GOI DISPLAYED IN ITS REPLY WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN UPCOMING TALKS. ONLY EXCEPTION WE HAVE NOTED WAS IN THIS MORNING'S NAWA-I-WAQT, PUNJAB'S INDEPENDENT WIDELY-CIRCULATED

URDU DAILY WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN STRONG ANTI-INDIAN LINE. IN AN EDITORIAL WHICH INCLUDED VEILED CRITICISM OF BHUTTO'S WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW ICAO CASE, NAWA-I-WAQT SAID THAT WHILE NO ONE CAN OBJECT TO NORMALIZATION EFFORTS PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN CAN NEVER ACCEPT INDIA'S HIGH-HANDED ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS COUNTRY. IT CONTENDED THAT IF INDIA WAS NOT PREPARED TO REVIEW WHAT IT CALLED GOI'S UNJUST ORDER OF PRIORITIES IN NORMALIZATION PROCESS (I.E., RESUMPTION CONFIDENTIAL

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OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ONLY AFTER PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS), GOP SHOULD NOT DISPLAY ANY SIGN OF WEAKNESS TOWARDS INDIA BUT SHOULD SHOW COURAGE AND DETERMINATION IN PURSUING POLICIES BASED ON RIGHT.

5. NEITHER NAWA-I-WAQT EDITORIAL NOR OTHER COMMENTARY WE'VE SEEN HAS MENTIONED WHAT WE CONSIDER REMARKABLY HELPFUL STATEMENT ON KASHMIR PROBLEM MADE IN IZMIR

EARLIER IN THE WEEK BY MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AHMED.
(ISLAMABAD 4065) NAWA-I-WAQT DID CARRY IN ITS NEWS
PAGES REPORT THAT AN AZAD KASHMIR POLITICAL GROUP
HAD ISSUED STATEMENT CRITICIZING AHMED LINE, WHICH IT
CALLED TANTAMOUNT TO A SURRENDER TO INDIA.

6. IN WHAT MAY
BE ANOTHER INDICATION OF GOP'S INTEREST
IN CREATING PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR TALKS WITH INDIANS,
PRESS HAS SO FAR DOWNPLAYED MUSLIM ANGLE IN REPORTS
OF VIOLENCE IN DELHI. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION THAT
WE HAVE SEEN OF DETENTION OF PAK NATIONALS NOR OF
STERILIZATION, IEIUE WHICH COULD HAVE INFLAMMATORY
POTENTIAL HERE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA04114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760155-1092
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760430/aaaaazel.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ISLAMABAD 4065, 76 NEW DELHI 5821
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDO-PAK RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, (GANDHI, INDIRA), (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006